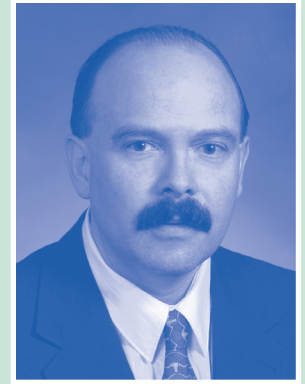




Reps. Bob Sump & Joel Kretz

Fall Legislative Preview



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This will be my last year serving you as a representative to the 7th District. After the 2008 session, I will be pursuing a career in ministry. It has been an honor serving you for the past 10 years. Before I leave my office in Olympia, there are still some things I would like to see happen.

I'll be supporting my colleagues in the House to strengthen the requirements for sex offenders after they have been released into communities. The safety of our families and neighborhoods depends on the tools that law enforcement have at their disposal. I'd like to see increased penalties for failing to register and closer tracking of high-risk offenders.

I have worked hard for you to create more job opportunities through increased local control and decreased taxes. This district has so much to give the great state of Washington – we need to keep fighting for our businesses and communities to create a flourishing economy.

After my work is done, I hope you will continue to be involved in your state government by voicing your opinion to the state representative who takes my place.

As always, my door is open and I encourage you to call my office and share with me your experiences and opinions on the issues that are important to you.

Respectfully,

Rep. Bob Sump

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope everyone in the 7th District enjoyed the summer with family and friends. With fall already here and the 2008 legislative session approaching, I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on issues I've been working on over the past several months, and give you a preview of what to expect in the 2008 Legislature.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Rep. Sump, my seatmate here in the 7th District, for all of his hard work and dedication over the years serving in the Legislature. As many of you know, the 2008 session will be Rep. Sump's last as he goes on to pursue his other life goals and spend time with his family.

I hope this brief update is helpful. If you have a specific issue you would like more information on, please feel free to contact me or Rep. Sump any time.

Thanks for trusting me to be part of your legislative team.

Sincerely,

Rep. Joel Kretz

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

Hearing-impaired Hotline:

1-800-635-9993

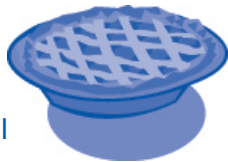


Huckleberry pie auction raises funds for local projects

Wauconda's annual pie auction held on Sunday, Oct. 7, raised \$3,900 that will go to pay for various community projects.

Many of you will recall that last year's Legislature tried to impose limits and criminal penalties on huckleberry pickers statewide. However, after several hundred upset 7th District constituents and huckleberry pickers phoned, emailed and wrote to lawmakers that the bill was out of line, and it was withdrawn.

House Bill 1040 would have allowed for the citation of local huckleberry pickers who possess or transport more than three gallons of huckleberries, either on their person or in their home, or both. The berries could be seized from any location, including a person's home, and given to the local Native American tribe.



The good news is the proposed restrictions made the value of this year's huckleberry pies higher than ever! One pie went for \$250! Part of the motivation to pay that price was because the funds will be used to give us an indoor bathroom at Wauconda Hall after 90 years of out-houses. If that isn't incentive to pay \$250, what is?

Wauconda has always been known for its homemade pies and its community spirit, and this year's event featured both in abundance. Thank you to all the volunteers as well as the bidders who made this event a great success once again. Wauconda exemplified the community and volunteer spirit that is representative of the entire 7th District.

Culvert negotiations could be costly

The recent ruling by U.S. District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez sided with the tribes' argument that culverts around the state hindered salmon passage, thus diminishing how many fish they could catch under treaty rights dating to the mid-19th century. The underlying push in the lawsuit is to have state taxpayers pay for repairs to the culverts to be in compliance with the treaty.



We have been following this case, which is still under review by the state attorney general's office, and have serious concerns about the potential outcome. The governor has intervened to be the key negotiator with the tribes in the case, but the closed-door negotiations compromise our position as taxpayers and are bad policy. We believe the attorney general should negotiate in the best interest of the state and taxpayers.

We're already spending the money for culvert repairs...

There are a lot of complex issues in this case, including how much it has already cost hard-working families and the potential future costs. From 1997 to 2004, it is estimated \$770 million was appropriated in the state operating budget for direct salmon recovery efforts, which includes culvert restoration.

This amount doesn't include the nearly \$46 million spent since 1991 by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to remove fish passage barriers and over \$83 million of planned spending over the next 16 years.

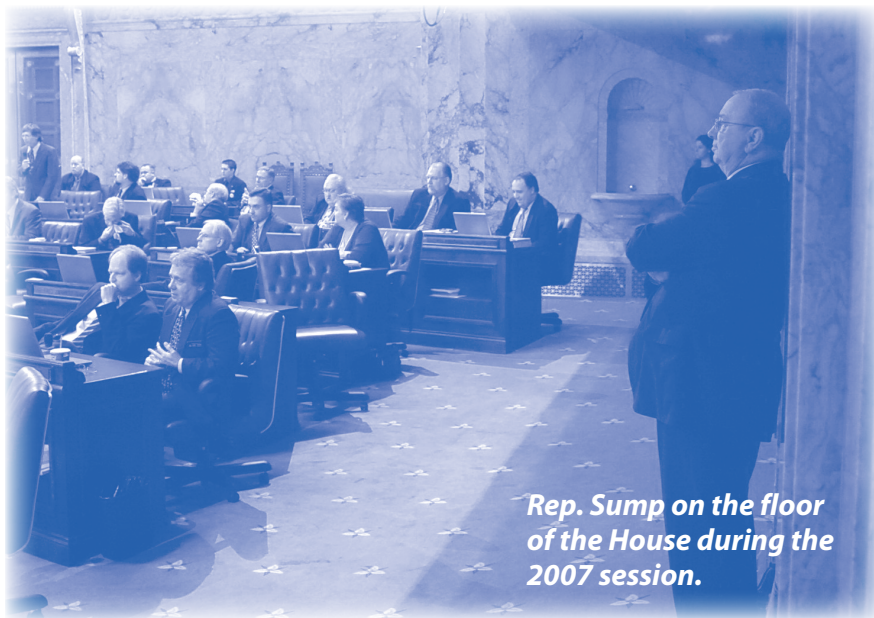
According to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, ratepayers shell out another \$130 million annually through the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for fish and wildlife enhancement projects. However, true costs to ratepayers are much higher – an estimated \$700 million per year – or 30 percent of your electric bill, and that's just on the Columbia River. These funds are used by BPA to pay for fish and wildlife programs and to make up for lost power due to spilling water for salmon. This is the costliest of any such program in the world.



What's next?

State lawyers have just started to work out the logistics of how the negotiations will take place. What we do know is that the negotiations will be private. No determination has been made on who will be involved or at what levels.

7th District Fall Legislative Preview



Rep. Sump on the floor of the House during the 2007 session.

Rep. Bob Sump

7th Legislative District

Rep. Joel Kretz



Rep. Kretz listens to testimony during a committee hearing.

Outlook for the 2008 Legislature

The 2008 session is a short session that is scheduled to be 60 days because it's our state's **supplemental budget** year. While lawmakers normally offer bills to allocate funds for higher than expected enrollments in schools or other unforeseen costs, the 2006 supplemental budget raised spending by 17.7 percent. This off-year hike in spending could impact how much budget writers have to back-fill the excessive spending and new programs from 2006.

Property tax increases is the one topic that 7th District residents have expressed the most concern about lately. Homeowners received their assessments recently and folks are scared they may lose their home. We'll work hard again this session to rein in excessive spending and the unconscionable rising of property tax rates statewide.



Public safety was a key issue during the interim and will likely be the subject of several bills. The package of eight common-sense measures House Republicans presented to the governor in September to track and monitor sex offenders will likely create a spirited debate in the House. We support the immediate use of all monitoring technology available and tougher punishment.

Agriculture and natural resource issues will also be in the forefront. It's getting harder to make a living as a rancher, farmer and orchardist, so there has to be some legislation to keep our family farms in business. Likewise, creating natural resource jobs, like those at the Buckhorn Mine, will require that the Legislature create policy that cuts red tape so businesses can open and employ area residents.

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Encourage young people to get involved

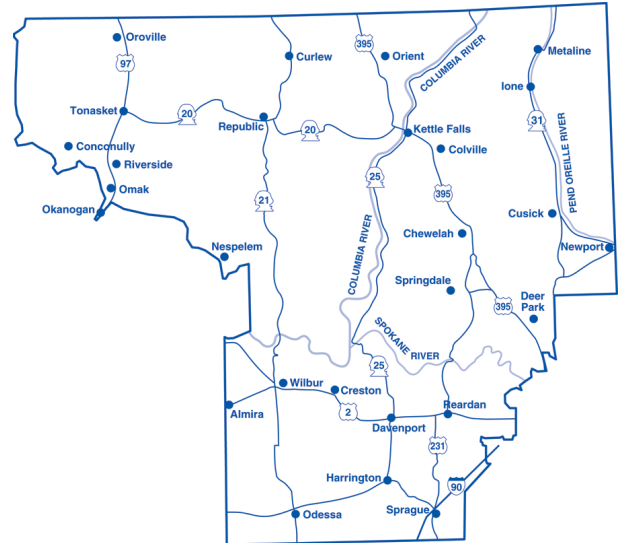
The Legislative Page Program is a week long, hands-on opportunity for students ages 14-16 to work for the Senate or House of Representatives during the 2008 session, which takes place January through March. Students are paid employees and work a regular business day, delivering messages, handing out documents on the floor, and running other errands.

They also attend Page School for two hours during the workday where they learn important concepts about civics. The highlight of the week is writing and presenting their own bills as they role-play legislators in a mock committee hearing.



Since students in our district would be traveling, private housing is available through host families living in the Olympia area. To find out more about the Page Program, go to www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/StudentsPage. Applications may be downloaded from the site and then must be sent to either of our offices for consideration.

7th Legislative District



Fall Legislative Preview

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